

# The Road to Improving Medicare Benefits

**2006**

JAN. 2006  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE  
BEGINS FOR THOSE WHO ENROLL



**2005**

JAN. 2005: FINAL RULES PUBLISHED  
JAN. 2005: NEW PREVENTIVE BENEFITS  
AVAILABLE  
JUNE 2005: PEOPLE WITH LOW INCOMES  
CAN START APPLYING FOR EXTRA  
HELP WITH DRUG PLAN COSTS  
NOV. 2005: ENROLLMENT IN PRESCRIPTION  
DRUG BENEFIT PLANS BEGINS

**2004**

MAY 2004: DRUG DISCOUNT AVAILABLE  
AS TRANSITION STEP TO  
DRUG BENEFIT  
AUG. 2004: PROPOSED RULES FOR  
BENEFIT PUBLISHED  
AUG. 2004 - OCT. 2004:  
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON  
PROPOSED RULES

**2003**

DEC. 2003: MEDICARE  
MODERNIZATION ACT  
SIGNED INTO LAW